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CALLING ON GOVERNMENT OF  
UNITED KINGDOM TO ESTABLISH  
INQUIRY INTO MURDER OF  
NORTHERN IRELAND DEFENSE  
ATTORNEY PAT FINUCANE

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 740) calling on the Government of the United Kingdom to immediately establish a full, independent, public judicial inquiry into the murder of Northern Ireland defense attorney Pat Finucane, as recommended by international Judge Peter Cory as part of the Weston Park agreement and a way forward for the Northern Ireland Peace Process, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 740

Whereas human rights defense attorney and solicitor Patrick Finucane was brutally murdered in front of his wife and children at his home in Belfast on February 12, 1989;

Whereas many international bodies and nongovernmental human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, British Irish Rights Watch, the Committee for the Administration of Justice, and Human Rights First, have called attention to serious allegations of collusion between loyalist paramilitaries and British security forces in the murder of Mr. Finucane;

Whereas in July 2001 the Governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom under terms of the Weston Park Agreement appointed retired Canadian Judge Peter Cory to investigate the allegations of collusion between loyalist paramilitaries and British security forces in the murder of Mr. Finucane and other individuals;

Whereas Judge Cory reported to the Governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom in April 2004 that sufficient evidence of collusion existed to warrant a public independent, judicial inquiry into the murder of Mr. Finucane and recommended that a public inquiry take place without delay;

Whereas the Government of the United Kingdom in April 2005 adopted the Inquiries Act 2005 which empowers the Government to block scrutiny of state actions and limits independent action by the judiciary in inquiries held under its terms, and, after the enactment of this legislation establishing new limited inquiry procedures, the Government announced that an inquiry into the murder of Mr. Finucane would be established which would operate under terms of the new legislation;

Whereas Judge Cory, in a written statement presented to the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives in 2005, stated that his 2004 recommendation for a public inquiry into the murder of Mr. Finucane had "contemplated a true public inquiry constituted and acting pursuant to the provisions of the 1921 Act" (the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act 1921), and also stated that "it seems to me that the proposed new Act would make a meaningful inquiry impossible";

Whereas the family of Mr. Finucane has rejected the limited authority of an inquiry conducted under terms of the Inquiries Act of 2005;

Whereas Amnesty International, British Irish Rights Watch, the Committee for the Administration of Justice, and Human Rights First have likewise rejected any proposed inquiry into the murder of Mr. Finucane established under procedures of the

Inquiries Act of 2005 and have called for the repeal of the Act;

Whereas the Dail Eireann (Parliament of Ireland) adopted a resolution on March 8, 2006, calling for the establishment of a full public independent judicial inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane; and

Whereas the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-228) and House Resolution 128 (April 20, 1999) support the establishment of a public independent judicial inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses to the family of Patrick Finucane deepest condolences on his death, commends their steadfast pursuit of justice in his brutal murder, and thanks his wife Geraldine and son Michael for their willingness to testify on this matter before committees of the House of Representatives on numerous occasions;

(2) supports the efforts of the Administration in seeking the full implementation of the Weston Park Agreement and the establishment of an independent judicial inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane;

(3) calls on the Government of the United Kingdom to reconsider its position on the matter of an inquiry into the murder of Mr. Finucane, to amend the Inquiries Act of 2005, and to take fully into account the objections of Judge Cory, objections raised by officials of the United States Government, other governments, and international bodies, and the objections raised by Mr. Finucane's family; and

(4) urges the Government of the United Kingdom immediately to establish a full, independent, and public judicial inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane which would enjoy the full cooperation and support of his family, the people of Northern Ireland, and the international community as recommended by Judge Cory.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 740. I thank my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his leadership on human rights matters worldwide and for offering this important legislation regarding human rights in Northern Ireland.

Last month, on April 4, 2006, we voted nearly unanimously, 399-1, for H. Res. 744, that important resolution sponsored by the chairman of the House International Relations Committee, HENRY HYDE, expressed our support for the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 as the blueprint for lasting peace in Northern Ireland, and support for con-

tinued police reforms in Northern Ireland as a critical element in the peace process.

U.S. support was crucial to the signing of the Good Friday Agreement signed 8 years ago, and our support continues to be vital. H. Res. 744 rightly commended the progress which has been made in Northern Ireland. As a result of the Good Friday Agreement, there is a new Police Service of Northern Ireland, PSNI. Under the leadership of Chief Constable Hugh S. Orde, the PSNI has made giant strides toward fair and nonsectarian policing. There is a vigorous and fiercely independent Police Ombudsman's Office, whose chief, Nuala O'Loane, has been a catalyst for reform. There is now a policing board in Northern Ireland composed of independent and party representatives designed to provide civilian control and fair nonsectarian policing. There is a new historical inquiries team established by Chief Constable Orde which will provide a thorough and independent examination of unresolved deaths that occurred in connection with the Troubles from 1968 to 1989.

But H. Res. 740, which we shall vote on today, is the indispensable companion of Mr. HYDE's H. Res. 744. Even with all the improvements I have noted in policing, Madam Speaker, significant further work remains to be done in order to ensure acceptance by all communities of the Police Service in Northern Ireland. A key stumbling block to that greater acceptance has been the lack of resolution of charges of official collusion in the murder of human rights lawyer Patrick Finucane, who was gunned down in front of his home in front of his wife and three small children in 1989.

Pat Finucane was not only a courageous human rights activist and loving father and husband, he is also a symbol of the horrible culture of official collusion and terrorism and crime in Northern Ireland. Resolving the question surrounding his murder will help to put an end to that culture once and for all and allow Northern Ireland's still fragile peace to flourish in a new atmosphere of trust.

We have twice gone on record supporting establishment of a public independent judicial inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane. In 1999, we adopted House Resolution 128 offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) which condemned the murder of attorney Rosemary Nelson and requested a public inquiry into the Finucane murder.

In 2003, Congress passed and the President signed the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, which included a provision offered by the gentleman from New Jersey supporting public judicial inquiries into the murders of both Rosemary Nelson and Patrick Finucane. We have moved the issue towards resolution, but we are not there yet.

In 2001, the British and Irish governments jointly appointed Judge Peter

Cory, a preeminent retired justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, to determine whether independent commissions should investigate possible state-sponsored collusion in six notorious and horrific murders. They also pledged to abide by his recommendations. In 2004, Judge Cory issued his report, yet the British Government still has not appointed an inquiry commission into the murder of Patrick Finucane. Our colleague, CHRIS SMITH, who could not be here today as he attends the funeral of Congressman Sonny Montgomery, has chaired numerous hearings on human rights and police reform in Northern Ireland since 1997, and in every one the issue of state-sponsored collusion in the Finucane murder has been central, yet still nothing has been done.

On March 8, the Irish Parliament passed an all-part motion fully supported by the Irish Government calling on the U.K. to immediately establish "a full independent public judicial inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane as recommended by Judge Cory, which would enjoy the full cooperation of the family and the wider community throughout Ireland and abroad."

The U.K. Government must find a way to institute a credible inquiry which would be accepted by all: by Judge Cory, the Irish public, by the world community, and, most of all, by the Finucane family. I commend my colleagues CHRIS SMITH, ELTON GALLEGLEY, PETER KING, JIM WALSH, RICHARD NEAL, DON PAYNE, and TOM LANTOS for their work on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 740 and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first I too would like to thank Chairman SMITH for introducing this important resolution. Congressman SMITH has been a tireless advocate in calling for full accountability in Northern Ireland, particularly as it relates to the 1989 slaying of Belfast attorney Patrick Finucane. I commend him for his dedication and determination to seek justice in this case along with the Finucane family, which has waited far too long for the truth to be unveiled.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution on the floor today simply calls on the Government of the United Kingdom to immediately establish a full independent public judicial inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane as recommended by Judge Peter Cory as part of the Weston Park Agreement.

The fact remains that Mr. Finucane's brutal murder has been unresolved for 17 years. To this end, it is critical that the British Government fulfill its commitment to the Weston Park Agreement and agree to hold an independent public inquiry recognized as credible by the international community, the affected family, the Irish Government, the United States Congress that will shed light on the serious allegations of

collusion between loyalist paramilitaries and British security forces in this egregious murder.

Mr. Speaker, just yesterday Northern Ireland's legislature met for the first time in 3½ years. I applaud this development that will hopefully lead to greater compromise and cooperation between Protestants and Catholics. The convening of the assembly along with the relevant tranquility and economic success that people of Northern Ireland have experienced since the signing of the Belfast agreement is deeply encouraging. However, issues at the core of the conflict remain unresolved, ultimately holding back lasting reconciliation. At the heart of this impasse are the public inquiries into high-profile murders in Northern Ireland, including the slaying of Mr. Finucane. The resolution before us states unequivocally Congress's interest as well as that of the United States to see a just, swift, and fair resolution to this unconscionable crime which must be resolved in order to ensure long-term peace and stability in Northern Ireland for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 740 which calls on the government of the United Kingdom to immediately establish a full, independent, public judicial inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane. I would also like to commend CHRIS SMITH, the Chair of the Human Rights Subcommittee and the sponsor of this resolution, for his consistent attention to this tragic case.

On February 12, 1989, human rights defense attorney and solicitor Patrick Finucane was brutally murdered in front of his wife and children at his home in Belfast on February 12, 1989. There have been serious allegations of collusion between loyalist paramilitaries and British security forces in the murder of Mr. Finucane.

In July 2001, the Irish and British Governments made new commitments in the Weston Park Agreement to hold public inquiries into high profile murders if so recommended by former Canadian Supreme Court Judge Peter Cory. Indeed, Judge Cory found sufficient evidence of collusion to warrant a public inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane.

It was clearly understood that such an inquiry would be held under the United Kingdom Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act 1921, which would provide a fair procedure for the discovery of evidence and other matters. Yet, despite widespread criticism, the British government is attempting to set up a restricted inquiry under the controversial 2005 Inquiries Act, which gives control to a government minister rather than an independent tribunal. This would give the minister the power to decide what information is kept secret or excluded, to end the inquiry at any time, and to edit the inquiry's final report.

The Inquiries Act has been rejected as inadequate by Judge Cory, the Finucane family, the Irish Government and human rights groups. In fact, last year, Judge Cory submitted written testimony to the House International Relations Committee stating that the new legislation is "unfortunate to say the least" and "would make a meaningful inquiry impossible".

Mr. Speaker, I have met several times with the Finucane family and human rights groups dedicated to a just inquiry into Patrick's murder. I stand with them today as the House of Representatives takes up this important resolution. Let their courage and determination be a symbol to all those fighting to uncover the truth of such horrors.

I would also like to commend Mitchell Reiss, the special envoy for the Northern Ireland Peace Process, who is continuing to push for full implementation of the Weston Park Agreement and the establishment of an appropriate investigation into Patrick Finucane's murder.

It is my hope that in the days ahead, after seeing this resolution, the United Kingdom will reconsider its position on the Finucane case and will immediately establish a full, independent, public judicial inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane, as recommended by Judge Cory. Such an inquiry will have the support of the Finucane family and the confidence of all who follow this case.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 740, which I introduced with bipartisan support, will do just what it says: provide a way forward for the Northern Ireland Peace Process.

I thank my colleague from Michigan, Mr. THAD MCCOTTER, for managing this bill so ably on the floor. I thank Chairman HENRY HYDE, Reps. ELTON GALLEGLEY, PETER KING, JIM WALSH, TOM LANTOS, the Ranking Member of the House International Relations Committee and many others for their work and support on this bill.

Yesterday, the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly met for the first time since 2002. Yet it still faces crucial challenges over community policing, and acceptance by the nationalist community of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). For the population of Northern Ireland to fully transfer its trust to the police, it must have confidence that the police and the authorities deserve trust and will be held accountable.

A key stumbling block to that greater acceptance has been the lack of resolution of charges of official collusion in the murder of human rights lawyer Patrick Finucane, who was gunned down in his home, in front of his wife and three small children, in 1989. Pat Finucane was not only a courageous human rights activist, but also a loving father and husband. His murder symbolizes the depth and danger of official State sponsored collusion in

Northern Ireland. Resolving the questions surrounding this murder will help restore confidence in the agencies of government in the north, and allow Northern Ireland's still fragile peace to flourish in a new atmosphere of trust.

That is a major reason why this inquiry needs to be done, and done right, as soon as possible. This is the purpose of H. Res. 740, which calls on the British government to establish the kind of full, public, independent, judicial inquiry into Patrick Finucane's killing called for by Judge Peter Cory, an esteemed Supreme Court judge from Canada who was asked by the British and Irish Governments to investigate this murder and make a recommendation regarding the possibility of collusion.

H. Res. 740 calls for exactly the type of inquiry that nongovernmental human rights organizations, including British Irish Rights Watch, the Committee for the Administration of Justice, Human Rights First, and Amnesty International have demanded. This is what the Irish Government and Parliament have urged. It is what we in Congress have supported. In 1999 the House passed House Resolution 128, which I authored, and in 2003 the full Congress passed, and the President signed into law, Chairman HYDE's Foreign Relations Authorization Act (Public Law 107-228).

But most of all, this is what the Finucane family, which for 17 years has courageously campaigned for justice, for Pat Finucane and all the victims in Northern Ireland, has demanded. Let us once again join them in their struggle.

I have held eleven hearings on human rights and police reform in Northern Ireland since 1997. In every one of those hearings witnesses have testified to the central role the Finucane murder has played in advancing an atmosphere of distrust and no confidence in state agencies. We've had family members, other Northern Ireland attorneys, nongovernmental human rights activists, as well as Mitch Reiss, President Bush's special envoy for the Northern Ireland Peace Process and Param Cumaraswamy, the United Nations' Special Rapporteur all testify that properly investigating this case is key to securing a just and lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

This is a crucial moment in the peace process in Northern Ireland. A credible public, independent, judicial inquiry into Pat Finucane's murder will help ensure confidence in the rule of law in the north of Ireland and will help bring the people of both sides of the divide to a just, stable and lasting peace which they richly deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again express my deepest condolences to the Finucane family and thank them for their courageous and tireless efforts on behalf of justice not only for their loved one but also for others who may have been victims of state-sponsored collusion in the north of Ireland. Similarly, I would like to acknowledge the

work and support from many human rights activists including Jane Winter of British Irish Rights Watch, Elisa Massimino from Human Rights First formerly the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, and Maggie Beirne, Martin O'Brien and Paul Mageean who have testified before Congress on behalf of the Committee on the Administration of Justice. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to remind my colleagues of the riveting testimony offered on this matter in 1998 by Rosemary Nelson, an attorney from Northern Ireland who told Congress that defense attorneys there feared that they could be murdered themselves because no one had been held accountable in the murder of Patrick Finucane. Six months after her testimony, Rosemary Nelson was killed, the victim of a car bomb.

For the Finucanes, for Rosemary Nelson and her family, and for peace and justice in Northern Ireland, I urge my colleagues to vote to pass this important resolution.

I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD the statement from the Honorable Judge Peter Cory, March 15, 2005 and a copy of the resolution adopted by Dail Eireann on March 8th urging an independent, judicial, public inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane.

THE HONORABLE PETER CORY,  
C.C., C.D., Q.C.,

*Toronto, ON, March 15, 2005.*

Chairman CHRIS SMITH,  
*Rayburn HOB,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: The proposed legislation pertaining to the public inquiries is unfortunate to say the least.

First, it must be remembered that when the Weston Park Accord was signed, the signatories would have had only one concept of a public inquiry. Namely, that it would be conducted pursuant to the 1921 Public Inquiry Act. Indeed, as an example, the Bloody Sunday Inquiry would have commenced its work as a public inquiry by that time.

The families of the victims and the people of Northern Ireland would have thought that if a public inquiry were to be directed it would be brought into existence pursuant to the 1921 Public Inquiry Act.

To change the ground rules at this late date seems unfair. It seems as well unnecessary since the security of the realm would be ensured by the courts when the issue arose in a true public inquiry.

My report certainly contemplated a true public inquiry constituted and acting pursuant to the provisions of the 1921 Act.

Further, it seems to me that the proposed new Act would make a meaningful inquiry impossible. The commissions would be working in an impossible situation. For example, the Minister, the actions of whose ministry was to be reviewed by the public inquiry would have the authority to thwart the efforts of the inquiry at every step. It really creates an intolerable Alice in Wonderland situation. There have been references in the press to an international judicial membership in the inquiry. If the new Act were to become law, I would advise all Canadian judges to decline an appointment in light of the impossible situation they would be facing. In fact, I cannot contemplate any self respecting Canadian judge accepting an appointment to an inquiry constituted under the new proposed act.

Yours sincerely,

THE HON. PETER DEC. CORY.

"That Dail Eireann:

Recalling the brutal murder of solicitor, Patrick Finucane at his home in Belfast on 12 February 1989;

Noting the on-going allegations of collusion between loyalist paramilitaries and British security forces in the murder of Mr. Finucane;

Recalling the commitments made at the Weston Park talks in July 2001 by the British Government to hold a public inquiry into the Finucane case, if so recommended by the Honourable Judge Peter Cory, it being clearly understood that such an inquiry would be held under the UK Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act, 1921;

Noting that Judge Cory found sufficient evidence of collusion to warrant a public inquiry into the case and recommended that such an inquiry take place without delay;

Recalling that in his conclusions, Judge Cory set out the necessity and importance of a public inquiry into this case and that the failure to hold a public inquiry as quickly as reasonably possible could be seen as a denial of the agreement at Weston Park;

Noting that the limited form of inquiry under the UK Inquiries Act 2005, proposed by the British Government has been rejected as inadequate by Judge Cory, the Finucane family, the Government and human rights groups;

1. Commends the Finucane family for their courageous campaign to seek the truth in this case of collusion;

2. Deeply regrets the British Government's failure to honour its commitment to implement Judge Cory's recommendation in full;

3. Welcomes the sustained support of successive Governments and all parties for the Finucane family over the past decade in their efforts to find the truth behind the murder;

4. Acknowledges the work of the Oireachtas Sub-Committee on Human Rights in highlighting this case;

5. Welcomes the Taoiseach's commitment and efforts in pursuing the case with the British Prime Minister Tony Blair;

6. Endorses the Government's international efforts at highlighting the case in the US, at the United Nations and at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg;

7. Calls on the British Government to reconsider its position on the Finucane case to take full account of the family's objections and amend the UK Inquiries Act 2005;

8. Calls for the immediate establishment of a full, independent, public judicial inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane, as recommended by Judge Cory, which would enjoy the full co-operation of the family and the wider community throughout Ireland and abroad.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOHMERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 740, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further

proceedings on this question will be postponed.

**CONDEMNING IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN DAHAB AND NORTHERN SINAI, EGYPT, ON APRIL 24 AND 26, 2006**

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 795) condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks in Dahab and Northern Sinai, Egypt, on April 24 and 26, 2006.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 795

Whereas, on April 24 and 26, 2006, a series of explosions at Dahab and in Northern Sinai, Egypt, planned and carried out by terrorists, resulted in the deaths of scores of civilians and the injury of many others;

Whereas the people of Egypt have been subjected to several other deadly terrorist attacks over the past years; and

Whereas President George W. Bush called President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to extend condolences on behalf of the American people for the loss of life: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks on Dahab and Northern Sinai, Egypt and other terrorist attacks directed against Egypt;

(2) expresses its condolences to the families and friends of those individuals who were killed in the attacks and expresses its sympathies to those individuals who have been injured;

(3) joins with President George W. Bush in expressing the solidarity of the people and Government of the United States with the people and Government of Egypt as they recover from these cowardly and inhuman attacks; and

(4) expresses its readiness to support the Egyptian authorities in their efforts to bring to justice those individuals responsible for the recent attacks in Egypt and to pursue, disrupt, undermine, and dismantle the networks which plan and carry out such attacks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 795. With this resolution, the House reflects on the recent bombings in the Sinai which cut short dozens of lives. We take this opportunity to share with our friends, the people of Egypt, our sorrow, our sym-

pathy, and our determination to help Egypt defend itself against such attacks.

The Egyptian people have been subject to terrorist attacks for many years; they have responded strongly and generally effectively. While there were several successful attacks during 2005, there were also antiterrorism successes. According to the State Department's "Country Report on Terrorism," two attempts to target tourists in Cairo were thwarted by Egyptian authorities. Nevertheless, because the Egyptian economy relies so strongly on tourism, each incident has an effect that is magnified for the country and has an impact that goes beyond the personal tragedies of those who are killed and injured. Anyone who has had the opportunity to visit Egypt will have experienced the gracious hospitality for which Egyptians are famous. It is a terrible shame that the Egyptians in the tourism sector, many of whom are economically deprived, must bear the burden of the vicious terrorist strikes.

Mr. Speaker, Egypt and the United States have a good level of antiterrorism cooperation. I hope that the combined antiterrorism efforts of Egypt and the United States will continue to bear fruit. We must continue to work together.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by quoting the statement of the Secretary of State, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, on April 4, 2006: "The United States condemns the vicious terrorist bombings in Dahab, Egypt today. We extend our deepest sympathies to those injured by this attack and to the families and loved ones of those killed. There could be no justification for this barbaric act of terrorism. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Egypt at this time of grief. We have been in contact with the Egyptian Government to extend our condolences and to offer whatever assistance they may need. We will support our Egyptian friends in their commitment to fight terror and to bring justice to those who are responsible for this crime."

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 795 and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues Congressman DAVIS and Congressman ISSA for joining me in introducing this important resolution being considered on the floor today.

On April 24 and April 26, a series of attacks were carried out in the Sinai region of Egypt, claiming the lives of 23 innocent civilians and injuring more than 60 men, women, and children. These horrific acts further demonstrate that no nation is free from the scourge of terror that has targeted the United States and our allies in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. From Taba to Dahab to Sharm al-Shaykh, the terrorist attacks perpetrated by Islamic

extremists in Egypt are deplorable and should be condemned by every nation that shares a commitment to security and peace. It is in this regard that I call on leaders of the international community and especially the Arab world to join the United States in decrying these horrific acts, these action by terrorists, and exhaust every measure to work with Egypt in combating extremism and terror.

Today, Congress expresses its solidarity with the people of Egypt who have suffered greatly at the hands of terror. As allies in the war on terror, the United States and Egypt share a common commitment to security in the Middle East. As such, the people of America stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Egypt and renew our commitment to eradicating terror throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge our colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield so much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), the sponsor of the resolution.

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Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 795, a resolution I introduced condemning the terrorist attacks in Dahab and northern Sinai in Egypt.

On April 24 and 26, 2006, a series of explosions at Dahab and in northern Sinai, Egypt, planned and carried out by terrorists, resulted in the deaths of scores of civilians and the injuries of many others.

Over the years, the relationship between the United States and Egypt has proven to be of critical importance to both countries. These relations have always been founded on mutual and deep understanding of each country's interests and role, both at the regional and international levels, in creating a world that is more safe and secure.

Like the United States, Egypt is a prime target of terrorism. President Sadat lost his life in 1981 as a price for signing the peace accords with Israel. Between 1990 and 1997, Egypt suffered from a series of terrorist attacks, mainly targeting the tourism sector that had long been the anchor of economic growth in the country.

Since September 11, Egypt has been a crucial ally to the United States in the global war on terror. Egypt, along with other Middle East allies such as Israel and Jordan, have paid a price for that too. Terrorist attacks rocked the Sinai Peninsula three times over 18 months. Moreover, last year, Egypt lost its Ambassador to Iraq.

The bloody attacks that took innocent lives in Dahab earlier this month indicate that terrorism does not discriminate by race, ethnicity, or region. Instead, terrorists target those seeking to live a peaceful and free life. We must hunt the terrorists down and bring them to justice. There is no other way